

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 5, and 9 have been amended. Claim 13 has been added. Claims 1-13 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

EXAMINER INTERVIEW

As a preliminary matter, it is noted that a personal interview was conducted between the Examiner and the Applicants' representative on August 18, 2004. During the interview, claim 1 was discussed. More specifically, the discussion included splitting claim 1 into two sections (one section addressing development of the model; the second section addressing use of the model. Additionally, claim clarity was discussed. The Examiner is thanked for his time.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: Aug 31, 2004

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